

other side of the world but over the skies of Pennsylvania, New York, and Virginia by ordinary American citizens.

The courage and bravery of Flight 93 was not the only heroism on display that day. Firefighters, police officers, and first responders jumped into action without hesitation. When planes crashed, they ran in. When fires ignited, they ran in. When buildings collapsed, they ran in. Their courage never wavered.

We will never forget the lives lost and must always remember the heroism that was shown. And while we cannot bring our loved ones back, we can honor their memory through acts of service.

To maintain the spirit of unity and compassion that stem from the attacks, every year our country proclaims September 11 as Patriot Day. It is a great way to honor the souls we lost and pay tribute to all who sacrificed their lives.

As President Bush said when he addressed the Nation: "Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America. These attacks shattered steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve."

COMMEMORATING THE 18TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, September 11, 2001, is one of those days when everyone of age can remember where they were and what they were doing when the first plane hit.

I was a police commander assigned to the Orlando International Airport. It appeared to be a normal day, and then the events unfolded. The planes hit. The towers collapsed. The Pentagon burned. The passengers of Flight 93 mounted their heroic resistance.

It appeared time stood still as the world watched the results and the actions of the hijackers, evil men who set out to attack America, to kill Americans. But they could never have killed the idea of America. You see, that idea belongs to us. It will endure as long as we continue to believe in it, to perfect it, and to make it worth fighting for.

2,977 lives, 343 firefighters, 23 New York police officers, and 37 Port Authority officers—they took much from us that day.

As a mother, I think of the roughly 100 babies who will turn 18 this year having never known their fathers.

Today, I remember the passengers and crew. I remember the first responders who rushed into fire and smoke, dust and rubble in a desperate fight to save whomever they could; who worked for weeks on end, breathing deadly particles, trying to find survivors, or at least identify the dead; heroes who died that day or from illnesses contracted

from the search, rescue, recovery; heroes who died as they lived, in service to others, who believed in service above self. These men and women didn't just save lives; they defined what it means to be a hero for a generation.

On the day of the worst terrorist attack on American soil, our first responders showed us the best of us. I am relieved that, earlier this year, Congress passed lifetime funding for the 9/11 Victims Compensation Fund.

Yes, evil men took much from us that day; but the heart and soul of America, the courage and tenacity, the ability to endure and to stand no enemy can take away from us.

The work of caring for those individuals who answered the call that day must go on, just as our work will go on to secure our Nation, to ensure that we will never again suffer the injury we did on that morning.

But today, on September 11, we pause from that work to remember and to honor the victims and to acknowledge the service of 9/11 is not just something to be memorialized, but to be emulated, to put service above self. May we stand united and serve in the people's House with courage, devotion, gallantry, compassion, and grace.

COMMEMORATING THE 18TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. RIGGLEMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RIGGLEMAN. Madam Speaker, 18 years ago, America experienced the worst act of terrorism in its history. Nearly 3,000 people were killed, with many others in emergency services and law enforcement suffering long-lasting health complications, sometimes resulting in death.

September 11, 2001, a day none of us will ever forget, had a deep and lasting impact on the lives of all Americans. I was one of the thousands who answered the call to serve and to hunt down those responsible.

When I woke on that tragic day, I was serving in the United States Air Force as an intelligence officer at Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho with the 366th Air Expeditionary Wing, 34th Bomb Squadron—the B-1 bombers. I was and am a proud Mountain Home Gunfighter. Our squadron deployed almost immediately as the on-call wing. By early October, I and my brothers and sisters in arms were mission planning the first bombing runs into Afghanistan.

I still remember the morning of September 11. Memories come to my mind as vividly as if they were yesterday: buttoning the buttons on my uniform when my wife yelled at me up the stairs that a plane had hit the World Trade Center in New York; a phone call seconds later that I, in no uncertain terms, needed to get my butt into the squadron to brief my commander on

the situation and start loading Conexes; working through the night while the base was in lockdown and much of the country was in a fog; trying to answer questions from my young daughter, wife, and friends about what was happening.

You are seeing my daughter, here, as I came home from deployment.

My memories are not unique, and every American has a different viewpoint on what happened that day. Some lost friends or family, and the tragedy we as a nation felt that day should not be forgotten.

But the impact of those attacks was not limited to that day, and history will write that heroic Americans responded with valor and bravery.

One of the most heinous acts ever committed on American soil did not bring us down but brought us together. In the words of former President George W. Bush: "One of the worst days in America's history saw some of the bravest acts in Americans' history."

Less than 24 hours after the first plane hit the towers in New York, deployment orders came. I still remember that feeling, standing on the tarmac and then watching from the plane as my three daughters, all younger than 10 years old, waved small American flags from down below. I was deployed on Active Duty and would be spending the next weeks planning bombing runs on Afghanistan to respond to these attacks.

Our Armed Forces are asked to make sacrifices; leaving their families is often one of them. But after 9/11, when so many Americans had sacrificed so much more, my brothers and sisters in arms were willing to make that sacrifice. Inspired by the heroism of so many firefighters, first responders, law enforcement, and citizens who answered the call, we knew that America would emerge stronger.

Eighteen years later, we remember the heroes of 9/11, honor their sacrifice, and admire their patriotism. Their memories will last for us forever because we will never forget what they gave us, heroic Americans who answered the call.

I was proud to serve with heroes like General Seve Wilson, Bull, Bullet, Eli, Scar, Jimbo, Rooster, Mongo, IROC, Stainless, Lost, Krenkle, Frengle, Sergeant Lowery, Migo, Psycho, Sassy, Tank, Rachel, Linda Vadnais, Atteberry, and so many more. From Ground Zero in New York to the Pentagon and across the country, American heroes answered the call, and we are forever in their debt.

God bless the United States of America.

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REMEMBERING 9/11

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today on the 18th anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attack to honor the nearly 3,000 individuals, brave men and women who lost their lives. Most Americans remember where they were during that day. There have been few times in our Nation's history that we have faced such an atrocity. And the effects are still being felt today.

But instead of shrinking in the shadow of such adversity, we rose to the challenge and came together to help one another. We became a Nation of one. But it also has changed our Nation and the world that we live in today forever, the way we work, the way we view our security.

This past July, I was pleased that the House and Senate with the President came together to reauthorize the 9/11 Victim's Compensation Fund for police and firefighters, first responders who answered the call after the attack in New York and Washington, D.C. These heroic men and women deserve all the help we can give them, and we must never forget September 11, 2001. We must remember 18 years ago today when we were all one as Americans. We need that more today than ever before.

HONORING DAVID HUERTA

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, in my home State in the San Joaquin Valley we recently lost a wonderful individual, a leader who I would like to honor today, Fresno State Police Chief David Huerta. David was loved by all. He passed away in mid-August after serving honorably in that position for 15 years.

A lifelong resident of Fresno County, Chief Huerta dedicated his life to serving his community by teaching and providing public safety as a police officer. During his career he was recognized as Officer of the Year. And Fresno State President Joseph Castro said David served with integrity, even in the most challenging of situations.

David will be greatly missed by his wife Cynthia, his four children and three grandchildren. It is with great respect that I ask my colleagues today to join in honoring Police Chief David Huerta.

RECOGNIZING CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO AND UC MERCED

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this moment to recognize the recent achievements of two outstanding universities in my district, California State University, Fresno and UC Merced University of California.

According to the U.S. News and World Report's 2020 Best College rankings, Fresno State University, my alma mater, ranked number three in graduation rate performance for public universities.

UC Merced made the biggest leap of all on the college list. They ranked number one in the Nation for student outcomes, including number one in outperforming expected graduation rates.

Both of these universities currently have over 70 percent of their student

body who are the first in their family ever to attend a university. These universities are doing what a higher education should be doing for all Americans. Go Bulldogs. Go Bobcats.

CONGRESS MUST ACT ON GUN LEGISLATION

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I would like to rise to urge Senate Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL to keep his word and act on gun safety legislation.

Every day it seems that there is coverage of another shooting on the news. Americans are just frustrated. Since Congress has begun their district work period in July there have been four high-profile shootings in this country. Those shootings resulted in the death of 51 Americans and over 90 that were injured. The threat to public safety today is simply unacceptable in our country.

In February, the House passed two key gun violence pieces of legislation. It has been nearly over 200 days since we passed these bills, but nothing has been done in the Senate. Despite the countless Americans who have lost their lives in these senseless shootings, including children, Leader MCCONNELL has refused to bring these up for debate. We should be doing our work and trying to provide gun safety for all Americans.

After the shootings in Dayton and El Paso, the American public has demanded action. The overwhelming majority of Americans want us to take commonsense action to provide better public safety. So Leader MCCONNELL said he would be doing just that. I think it is time that we hold him to his word.

This Congress must act. The President should take the leadership, ensuring we can do everything we can to protect Americans throughout our land.

REMEMBERING 9/11

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the nearly 3,000 people who were killed on this day in 2001. At dawn, September 11, 2001, was a morning like every other, that is until everything changed. Terrorists, who were intent on destroying our country and our way of life attacked.

But through this tragedy we saw our country unite. We saw unmatched courage and bravery from our first responders, servicemembers, and everyday citizens. Now, 18 years later, we find ourselves with a new generation that did not experience the horrors of that day. They only know a post-9/11 world. That makes it all the more important that we teach them what happened that day, honor the victims, and discuss the impact those terrorist attacks have had on our world.

But today, we remember. Today, we pray. Today, we honor Americans of every background who, in the after-

math of that fateful day, united under our flag, bound together by a sense of unflappable courage, duty, and patriotism.

HONORING SCOTT KIMBRIEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. TRONE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TRONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend, Scott Kimbriel, who died on August 12 after a year-long struggle with prostate cancer.

I met Scott sometime before kindergarten and we stayed close for almost 60 years. He used to come over and work on our farm while we grew up, and over many decades our friendship remained strong as we moved across the country.

At his core, Scott was a gifted entrepreneur and businessman. He was able to learn from his mistakes and relentlessly marched forward. He was a giver, able to exercise so much compassion with absolutely no strings attached because it was simply the right thing to do for his friends. I was better off for having known Scott.

In 2019 the American Cancer Society estimates over 174,000 people will be diagnosed with prostate cancer. Over 31,000 of those diagnosed will die from the disease. I, myself, am a cancer survivor.

Right now the National Cancer Institute, which is located in my district is working on prevention, detection, and treatment of prostate and other cancers. But we are leaving so much on the table. We need to invest more in research. We need to invest more in innovative solutions that could save lives like Scott's.

In Congress we must be determined and unified to eradicate cancer and eliminate the heartache that it brings so many families across our great country.

Scott Kimbriel was a special person, and it hurts knowing I can no longer pick up the phone and hear Scott's ever cheerful voice answer, "DT." But instead of looking in the rearview mirror, Scott would want us to look out the front window thinking about how we could support those in the future who might suffer from this horrible disease.

I know I am committed to this fight, and I ask my colleagues to join me in this fight.

REMEMBERING 9/11

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, on this day nearly 20 years ago our great Nation suffered a loss unlike any she has suffered before or since. Almost 3,000 American citizens were killed on September 11, 2001, and thousands more have died or become seriously ill since from their response that day, whether